quested the French side to consider the possibility of assisting India in the setting up of an integrated coal project consisting of an underground mine, a washery and a captive power plant at Ananta (Mahanadi Coalfields Limited) in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The Indian side also proposed to explore the possibility of exporting coal with French assistance. However, buy-back arrangement as such was not discussed.

पठारी क्षेत्रों में कोयले के भण्डार

761. श्री शिव प्रसाद चनपुरिया : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को मध्य प्रदेश में जबलपुर और मंडला जिलों के कुंडल और शाहपुरा विकास खण्डों के पठारी क्षेत्रों में कोयले के भंडारों का पता लगाने की कोई सूचना मिली है ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार इन क्षेत्रों का एक सर्वेक्षण कराने का विचार रखती है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री एस. बी. नयनगौडा) : (क) और (ख) भारतीय भू-सर्वेक्षण, कलकत्ता ने सूचित किया है कि मध्य प्रदेश के जबलपुर और मंडला जिले के कुन्डालैन्ड और शाहपुरा विकास खंड अधिकतर ट्रैप्स से ढका हुआ है और इन क्षेत्रों में कोयले के भण्डार न होने अथवा नीचे की गोडवाना राक्स (चट्टानों) के कोयला-धारी क्षेत्र न होने की सूचना मिली है । अत: भारतीय भू-सर्वेक्षण द्वारा इन क्षेत्रों में कोयले का अन्वेषण किए जाने का कोई कार्यक्रम नहीं है ।

Auction of coal stock at Dankuni coal complex

762. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that recently the Coal India Limited authorities have issued public notification in the press for auctioning the entire coal-stock at Dankuni Coal Complex; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd., they have not invited any price bids for auctioning the entire stock of "CIL COKE" of Dankuni Coal Complex. However, they have invited offers from the interested buyers for purchase of the accumulated stocks of "CIL COKE" on unrestricted basis at the price fixed for the product.

Foreign investment in Coal Mining

763. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Mining would be open to foreign private investment and

(b) if so, whether any offers have been received, so far, and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) The Government have taken a decision to permit Private Sector participation in Coal mining for captive use. To enable this, a Bill to amend the relevant provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been introduced.

Such Private Sector participation would be open to both Indian and foreign investment.

However sueh foreign investment would be regulated under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

Offers received in this Ministry so far from foreign investors are:

(1) M/s. Coleman Associates for captive lignite mine for a thermal power station at Barsingsar, Rajasthan.

(2) Kalinga Power Corporation Limited, (a company registered in India, which will shortly have majority equity share holding by foreign investors) for captive coal mine for a power plant at Duburi, Cuttack, Distt., Orissa.

Quantity produced in the Kalakot Mines

764. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated quantity of coal lying in the Kalakot Mines of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what quantity of coal is being extracted from these mines at present and what expenditure is being incurred thereon;

(c) what is the category-wise labour force employed in the mines; and

(d) what profit has been made by these mines during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B NYAMAGOUDA): (a) According to information available with Geological Survey of India, the estimated proved reserves in the Kalakot Coal Mines of Jammu and Kashmir are 0.35 million tonnes.

(b) Accordng to the State Government, about 20,000 tonnes of coal is being produced annually from Kalakot Coal mines at an average annual expenditure of Rs. 320 lakhs.

(c) The category-wise labour force employed in these mines are:—

Monthly paid	—	220
Daily rated	—	420
Piece rated	—	507

(d) Coal mining operations in Kalakot are not commercially viable since very inception of coal mining in the area due to impersistent and un-predicted behaviour of coal seam. No profit could be earned during the last 3 years.

Allocation of coal to U P

765. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is much shortage of coal in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of coal allocated to Uttar Pradesh and what is the percentage of the same given for tribal regions of the State; and

(c) whether Government propose to allocate more coal to Uttar Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Coal supplies to all the consuming sectors in Uttar Pradesh have, in fact, registered an increase from 27.737 million tonnes in 1990-91 and 30.505 million tonnes in 1991-92. The existing information system does not yield separate data about the percentage of coal supplied to consumers located in tribal regions of the State. Coal India Ltd. had earlier this year offered additional quantity of 6.04 million tonnes of coal on unrestricted basis from pithead stocks to all the coal consumers. Many consumers of U.P. State also applied for this coal and obtained allocations in their favour. Consumers in U.P. can also avail of the facility of lifting 1000 tonnes of coal at a time without sponsorship under the "Liberalised Sale Scheme" from the mines specified under this scheme. It is expected that availability of coal to all States incuding Uttar Pradesh will increase incoming years.

Separate coal corporation for North East region

766. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for a separate coal corpora-